

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...in our statutes. But instead of doing away with it altogether, I think we should adopt the Avery amendment and retain the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Before going on to the next speaker, I'd like to call the Legislature's attention to some guests of Senator Hillman. Mary Crawford from Alliance, Jim Merrigan from Scottsbluff, Chuck Hibberd from Scottsbluff, Ron Moore from Gering, Bruce Gaarder from Morrill. They're under the south balcony. Would you please rise and be greeted by your Legislature. Thank you. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Hall and Pedersen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I also oppose the Avery amendment and I do think that this attempt to cut out an unnecessary and superfluous committee by the Legislature is a worthwhile thing to do. There is no reason whatsoever for this committee to be mentioned in statute. There is no reason for it to continue in existence, in my opinion. I've been in the Legislature a long time and I've watched committees change, I've watched some come and some go. On occasion committees were created to accommodate a certain senator, in other instances, and this might be one of them, a committee existed but there were no duties or responsibilities. If you read the statute relative to this one, nothing is laid out with specificity. So perhaps in those old days they decided there was somebody they wanted to give a chairmanship to and then provided some duties so that the person would seem to have something. There was an old gentleman named George Syas who used to be here, many years ago, and a committee was called the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee, or something. There...no reason or rhyme whatsoever for those things to be combined except to allow George Syas to have a committee and to give it the area of concern that he had an interest in, I think it was Game and Parks, hunting and such things as that. So all kinds of activities have occurred which have kind of thrown things out of joint with the Legislature. A few years ago there was a revision of the committee system in terms of names for some of them even, and subject matter was defined a little more regularly than had been the situation in the past. But for this committee to exist I think is a waste. The Executive Board can establish a policy and I think it should include the things that Senator Elmer mentioned that would be, make sure that new members are made aware of opportunities to participate with